

*A monthly publication of Memorial Christian Church
in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and goodwill among His people, our friends.*

In this issue . . .

P. 2

- ◆ Preacher's Pen
- ◆ Lake Area Fellowship
- ◆ Graduates

P. 3

- ◆ Graduation
- ◆ Welcome to Memorial Youth Ministry

P. 4

- ◆ Forward in Faith Update
- ◆ Building Committee Report

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

Gordon Addington
David Benedict
Forrest Cotter
Rick Schmeski
Bill Sites
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Joey Peglar

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Amy McKay

Added to the Staff!

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Since the fall of 2008, Mrs. Ashton Schmeski has served as our Children's Ministry Coordinator. She has completed nursing school and is pursuing a career in the health services industry. We congratulate Ashton upon her educational achievement and thank her for serving the congregation in this special capacity. We are very happy that one of her chief volunteers and partners in the ministry, Mrs. Amy McKay, has accepted our invitation to assume leadership of this crucial ministry.



Mrs. Amy McKay

Of her passion for our children Amy wrote in her application, "My heart is filled with desire to help them know, understand, and love God. My ultimate goal is to instill within them an insatiable desire and strong commitment for Jesus so that during the times they must face the pull of the

world and its snares, they will hold fast to the promises and principles they have learned and stay strong in Him." She continues, "The cycle of a godly generation begins now at this time with these children."

Amy's vision for this ministry extends beyond the children and our church property into the lives of the parents and the homes from which the children come. She writes, "God has put it upon my heart to meet [families] where they are. This is much more than a ministry to hurting children; it is an opportunity to offer hope to hurting parents. I have only begun to break ground in this area and feel a lot more groundwork to be done. This is something that has taken lots of time but I know this is exactly the right direction in this ministry. . . I wish to develop this area more and incorporate other opportunities to build relationships with the parents."

Memorial Day Weekend Concert

Comprised of four ordained preachers, this quartet has been crooning southern gospel favorites throughout the Midwest for nearly thirty years. The quartet traveled to Beijing, China in 2008 to preach and sing. Besides the many revivals they have conducted and concerts they have presented, the preachers have been perennial favorites at the Missouri Christian Convention and have been on the program at various national and state conventions, the Baxter County (AR) Fair, and featured at Bible college banquets and programs.

**Friday
May 28
7:00 p.m.**



continued on p. 3



Preacher's Pen *by Eric Dwyer, Youth Minister*

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online www.memorialchristian.com



ConGRADulations!



MHHS

Samantha Smith
Tiffany Deutscher
ASU-MH

Mrs. Ashton Schmeski
Ozark Christian College
Sabreena Saleem (Massey)

Lake Area FELLOWSHIP

Friday, May 28
HOST: Memorial Christian Church

In my last article, I laid out a few broad problems facing the youth of today. This article aims to use cultural and medical references to get more specific and talk about a disturbing trend among the youth of today. In fact, I had never heard of this issue until I reached high school myself. More and more young people are self mutilating, or "cutting" than ever before. This act of punishing oneself is found mostly among teenage girls. Dr. Charles Goodstein of Discovery Health estimates that one out of every two hundred girls between the ages of 13 and 19 regularly cuts herself. This number does not include the minority of males who cut, those who are outside the age range listed, and those who try it only a few times and stop. It is not restricted to any age, gender, or even religion. A fellow student in one of my counseling classes at OCC gave his personal testimony about cutting in high school. Some of you may be thinking, "Why on EARTH would anyone do that!?" Here are some reasons why someone may choose to self mutilate.

Someone may resort to cutting to release tension. There is a chemical reaction that takes place when the body is injured. The body responds to pain by sending a rush of adrenaline as a coping mechanism. A cutter may feel so much pressure to achieve good grades, look pretty, or be the best athlete that he resorts to the rush associated with physical pain as a way to escape.

Some say they cut themselves to see if they have any feeling at all. This may seem strange. But in this world there are some who are so lost they go day to day believing they have no feelings at all. The band, Linkin' Park, came out with a song in 2003 entitled "Numb." The song topped the Billboard charts for twelve weeks. It became so popular because the lyrics are from the perspective of someone suffering from an inability to process feelings, which is an ever-growing trend.

**"I've become so numb I can't feel you there
Become so tired so much more aware
I'm becoming this all I want to do
Is be more like me and be less like you"**

Johnny Cash released a new CD shortly before his death in 2003. One of the songs on the new CD which became widely popular was a cover song by the name of "Hurt." It is a fairly haunting song in which the writer seems to focus on the emotional pain he causes others and the physical pain he causes himself. The following words are taken from the first verse:

**"I hurt myself today to see if I still feel.
I focus on the pain the only thing that's real.
The needle tears a hole, the old familiar sting.
Try to kill it all away but I remember everything.
What have I become my sweetest friend?
Everyone I know goes away in the end."**



Notice how the writers describe their lives and how pain affects them. "I've become so numb" and "so tired." They cut to see if they "still feel" because the pain is "the only thing that's real."

There are a few things we must remember about dealing with someone who self mutilates. Cutting is a symptom of a much larger psychological problem that needs professional attention immediately. Most cutters hide the areas of self mutilation. They wear long sleeves — even when it is warm — to cover the scars on their arms. They may choose not to go swimming because they are hiding the scars on their shoulders or thighs.

Provide, no, produce an atmosphere where they feel they can open up and work through their feelings instead of hiding and dealing with them in this way. Also, these people desperately need to know how much Jesus loves them. If they are looking for a real life with feeling, He promises to give life to the full (John 10:10). God uses people to provide the direction. So here are a few practical suggestions to help you point troubled young people to Christ.

- Resist the urge to criticize a young person's clothing. Look beyond the covering to see the person.
- Initiate contact with young people. Learn their names. Engage them in conversation.
- Participate with young people in activities they enjoy (e.g., Wii, board games, etc.)
- Pray for our young people.





Graduation Sabreena Saleem

Our former children's ministry summer intern (2008) and a daughter of our ministry family in Pakistan will be graduated from Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO on Saturday, May 22. She

has been accepted at Cincinnati Christian University, where she will enroll as a student this fall. It is with great pride and joy that we congratulate Sabreena and wish her well in her educational pursuits and life's work.



Concert *continued from p. 1*

The quartet will have its first opportunity to sing in prison on May 27! In June they will perform in Branson, MO for the Senior Adult Conference sponsored by Ozark Christian College.

The quartet has five recordings that include a sampling of its extensive repertoire. Freida Brown, accompanist, has two CDs featuring her piano renditions of classic sacred and gospel music.

The group has not changed personnel in its entire history. Paul Hamm, tenor, is

the preacher at First Christian Church in Summersville, MO. Jack Holland, bass, is the preacher at First Christian Church in Mtn. Grove, MO. Rodney Brown, baritone, is the preacher at Parkview Christian Church in Sedalia, MO. Gene McCoy, lead, is the preacher at the host congregation in Mtn. Home, AR.

The concert will be held in the church auditorium and will also serve as the Lake Area Fellowship, which is customarily held on Sunday evenings.

But the general public is encouraged to attend the concert.



Our Young People Serving Others

by Amy McKay and Eric Dwyer

Our older young people recently finished a unit on the book of James on Wednesday nights. We discussed the balance of faith and deeds.

They learned how salvation is a gift from God alone. They learned it cannot be accomplished by the work of our hands, because some people would brag about how they achieved it! They learned that when someone *says* he has faith in this salvation but does not show it to the world through his *actions*, then his faith is dead as a door nail (has anyone ever heard of a live door nail?).

Much like the slide which was projected on our screen during worship services, the kids learned that "Real Christianity *Works*."

After we concluded the five week study, we put what we learned into practice by doing a service project the very next week for a "seasoned saints" couple in our church. They were unable to climb a ladder to their roof to clean out their gutters. The kids

enjoyed the trip and the chance to serve our congregation. More importantly, they were putting their faith into practice with their deeds. And we can all agree, that's something to get *worked* up about!

Our upper-elementary Sunday School class had the opportunity to serve the community on Easter Sunday when class members visited the Elmcroft Assisted Living facility. The children received a delightful gift in return for their hand-made cards, flower arrangements and hugs they gave to the people in the great room. The beaming faces of the elderly made an impact upon the children as they wished them a Happy Easter and told them Jesus loved them.

I want to congratulate the children on a job well done and give special thanks to the Webster girls for helping to make the flower arrangements that morning!



MAY MEETINGS

- 2 Welcome to Memorial
- 3 Willing Workers
- 4 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 5 Finance Ministry Team
- 10 Elders
- 16 Family Life Ministry Team
- 20 Outreach Ministry Team
- 21 Building Committee
- 23 Lake Area Fellowship



an orientation luncheon for newcomers

Memorial Christian Banquet Center

Noon Sunday, May 2



Plan to attend the official or ceremonial opening of our new building.

Building Update by Jim Darr

The new building continues to take shape from the outside with the completion of the roof decking. The ice shield and felt paper will be next to go on the roof with the shingles to follow.

The brick work will start on the northwest corner of the building and work around the back side of the building and the windows and outside door frames will go in.

While all of this is going on the outside, lots of things are going on inside. The rough-in electrical and plumbing work is taking place, along with final framing work. Next, the spray in place foam insulation will be applied to the roof decking and outside walls.

We need volunteers to help complete certain aspects of the building during the anticipated time line of occurrence (see below). This is a good way to contribute to the building of our new church home.

POSSIBLE SCHEDULE

May 17 to May 31	Insulate inside walls for sound deadening
June 21 to July 9	Install, stain and finish cabinets
June 28 to July 30	Paint
July 26 to August 13	Install flooring, finish trim
August 16 to August 31	Final cleaning before move in

Please contact me to let me know of your intentions so that schedules can be developed.

See pictures of construction progress on our website.

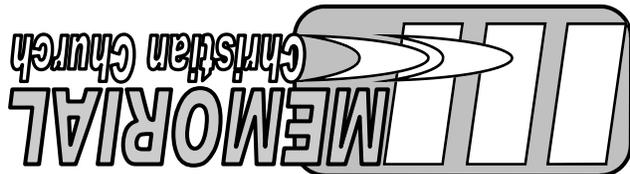


The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION
Matthew 28:19-20

Meeting Schedule
 Wednesday Evening Sunday Morning
 5:30 Supper 9:30 Worship
 6:30 Bible Classes 11:00 Bible Classes

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 388 Mtn. Home, AR 72654 870-425-8323
 (Located at 315 W. 6th St.)



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